

major goal of the T-STAR program is to develop strategies and tactics to stem the invasion of exotic diseases, insects, and weeds into the United States. The recent introduction of asian soybean rust into the United States, along with the increasing threat of avian influenza and foot-and-mouth disease entering the country, heightens the possibility of a terrorist-induced attack on the nation's food supply. There is an urgent need to identify exotic pests in other countries with which the United States maintains frequent and extensive trade and travel in order to: (1) determine potential avenues for the introduction of these pests into the United States, (2) develop technologies for the early detection of these pests, (3) find effective and environmentally acceptable methods for the eradication and containment of these pests if they enter the United States. Under the T-STAR program, scientists aggressively protect the nation against the growing environmental and economic threat of invasive exotic pests. The Universities of Florida and Hawaii represent important agricultural states which are prime locations for the introduction of exotic pests from other parts of the world. Previous funding has been provided by the Department of Agriculture for T-STAR in the following amounts: FY 2001—\$3,800,000, FY 2002—\$3,800,000, FY 2003—\$9,000,000, FY 2004—\$9,000,000, FY 2005—\$9,400,000, FY 2006—\$9,500,000, FY 2008—\$7,400,000.

U.S. 19 AT ENTERPRISE

Account: Federal Highway Administration.
Legal name and address of requesting entity: Pinellas County Metropolitan Organization, 600 Cleveland Street, Suite 750, Clearwater, FL 33755.

Description of request: \$855,000 is included in the bill to continue work on a controlled access project at U.S. 19 and Enterprise Road in Clearwater. With federal, state, and local funds, the Pinellas Metropolitan Organization has been converting U.S. 19 from an arterial roadway into a controlled access roadway. The 1.3 mile Enterprise Road segment is the last remaining grade level interchange. Once complete, there will be 11.2 miles of controlled access, with no traffic signals, between 118th Avenue in mid-Pinellas County north to State Road 580 in north Pinellas County. U.S. 19 is a Regional Emergency Evacuation Route used by an average of 90,000 vehicles per day. Previous federal funding, provided in FY 2001 in the amount of \$4,000,000, was used for preliminary engineering and grade separated design. The Florida Department of Transportation will provide \$17 million toward the completion of this project.

WORKNET PINELLAS EMPLOYED WORKER RETRAINING PROGRAM

Account: Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Training & Employment Services.

Legal name and address of requesting entity: WorkNet Pinellas, 13805 58th Street North, Suite 2140, Clearwater, FL 33760.

Description of request: \$95,000 is included in the bill for WorkNet Pinellas to conduct an employer-focused training program for workers to train them in new fields and new technologies. WorkNet will solicit technological training shortfalls from Pinellas County manufacturers. Through consultation with the employers and the local Economic Development Council, WorkNet will certify the validity of the training needs and prepare a training plan based on the employers' technology usage. Through its training partners, Pinellas Technical Education Centers and St. Petersburg College, WorkNet will identify the training resources available and submit the plan to the employer for approval and agreement. The employer will be

expected to contribute at least half of the cost of the training program and consent to meeting the training goals within a specified timeline. This project will be based firmly on the skill needs of the employer and will result in a more highly skilled workforce whose members can continue to progress in their careers. Another clear objective of this program will be to allow the employers to remain competitive in the global economic market without having to relocate or farm-out any of their production. The goal of the program is to training 1,200 workers from at least 15 employers. This is the first federal funding provided for this project.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the requirements of the Republican Conference of the House, I am submitting for the RECORD the following revised information regarding two earmarks I requested, which are included in the reported version of H.R. 1105, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman DANA ROHRBACHER (CA—46)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Name of Project: Vanguard University Academic Center for Science, Nursing, and Technology.

Account: DHHS, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Vanguard University

Address of Requesting Entity: 55 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Description of Request: I received \$238,000 for Vanguard University's Academic Center for Science, Nursing, and Technology. Vanguard University is developing an Academic Center for Science, Nursing, and Technology which will help address the significant problems facing California by training teachers in science and math, and by developing a Nursing School with an accelerated RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Program to help address the nursing crisis. The center will include the development of smart classrooms, the nursing school, and research laboratories to train existing teachers and nurses, and will deliver the study of science, math, and technology that will prepare students for teaching careers in science and math. It is my understanding the University will provide the balance of funding through endowments and other major gifts. It is also my understanding funds will be used consistent with the following.

Site work: \$407,500
Shell & Minimal Core \$4,087,000
Core & Systems \$1,911,000
Basement Premium \$232,500
500 SF total @ 132.66/SF
Total \$6,638,000

I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman DANA ROHRBACHER (CA—46)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Name of Project: Vanguard University Academic Center for Science, Nursing, and Technology.

Account: Department of Education, Higher Education (FIPSE)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Vanguard University

Address of Requesting Entity: 55 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Description of Request: I received \$190,000 for Vanguard University's Academic Center for Science, Nursing, and Technology. Vanguard University is developing an Academic Center for Science, Nursing, and Technology which will help address the significant problems facing California by training teachers in science and math, and by developing a Nursing School with an accelerated RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Program to help address the nursing crisis. The center will include the development of smart classrooms, the nursing school, and research laboratories to train existing teachers and nurses, and will deliver the study of science, math, and technology that will prepare students for teaching careers in science and math. It is my understanding the University will provide the balance of funding through endowments and other major gifts. It is also my understanding funds will be used consistent with the following.

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500 SF total @ 132.66/SF
Total \$6,638,000

I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE RETIREMENT OF REVEREND ISAAC SINGLETON

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Isaac Singleton's retirement after 47 years with the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Joliet, Illinois. Reverend Singleton earned his recognition as a south suburban icon many years ago. After working on a plantation in Louisiana with his father, he joined the Army Air Force during World War II. He later settled in Joliet, where he has enjoyed a 60 year marriage with his wife Pearl. He is known locally as a symbol of the civil rights movement for marching alongside the great Martin Luther King, Jr. in Montgomery, Alabama and is featured in both "Who's Who Among Black Americans" and the Joliet Will County Hall of Pride.

As pastor at Mount Zion Baptist Church, Reverend Singleton saw the congregation grow from an intimate 100 members to the ever faithful, flourishing parish of 2,000 members it is currently. Reverend Singleton's influence is seen all over Joliet, from the 28,000 square foot presence of Mount Zion Baptist church to the street named after him to the Family Life Center he founded. He is respected internationally as well, having preached in five different continents and having built churches in Africa.

Reverend Singleton retires this month after a fulfilling, impressive, and inspirational career. He is truly an asset to Joliet as well as the

global faith community. It is with great pride that I celebrate the career of Reverend Isaac Singleton. May his retirement be fruitful and joyous.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER
OF BILL POST

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to praise and reflect upon the career of an outstanding CEO and an even better friend, Bill Post. I first met Bill in the early 1970s when he was financial officer for the Arizona Public Service, also referred to as APS, and I was a Maricopa County Supervisor. He impressed me as a smart, young executive.

Bill Post is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Arizona Public Service—my home state's largest electric company. Bill recently announced his retirement from APS and its parent company, Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, after 37 distinguished years with the companies.

Starting his career as a Draftsman after finishing college at Arizona State University, Bill quickly climbed the ranks at APS. He became an officer in 1982, then ascended to President and CEO of APS and President of Pinnacle West in 1997. He earned the title of Chairman of the Board for both companies in 2001.

Of course what he accomplished and the relationships he built were always far more important to Bill than any title. He guided APS through a period of incredible growth for our state. In the last decade alone, APS added more than 300,000 customers, yet the company has been a model of efficiency. Despite its rapid growth, APS continued to meet Arizona's expanding energy needs while also improving customer satisfaction, setting new standards of electric reliability and keeping employee numbers essentially flat.

Revered for his business acumen, Bill is also ubiquitous in the community—continually lending his guidance, energy and financial resources to non-profit organizations such as Greater Phoenix Leadership, Valley of the Sun United Way, the Arizona Business Coalition, and the Children's Action Alliance. His dedication to our community and state led me to often refer to Bill as the "Big Dog in Town." Bill's own generosity has always set the tone for his company—APS and its employees are known across Arizona as leaders in the communities they serve.

Bill Post embodies the character and uniqueness of my home state. A lifelong Arizonan, Bill is as at home driving his Jeep through dusty desert trails as he is guiding strategy in a corporate boardroom. In his retirement from APS, I know he will probably be providing leadership to the people of Arizona.

COMMEMORATING BRAIN
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Brain Awareness Week (BAW) and the benefits of this informative week in educating students on brain science in my congressional district and across the country. Brain Awareness Week, launched in 1996, brings together the Society for Neuroscience, Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives and 1200 other organizations worldwide who share a common interest in improving public awareness of brain and nervous system research. During Brain Awareness Week, neuroscientists around the globe educate K–12 students, senior citizens and the public at large on the wonders of the human brain. These activities include tours of neuroscience laboratories, museum exhibitions and classroom discussions on the elements of the human brain.

This year, the Philadelphia area members of the Society for Neuroscience will host their annual Brain Awareness event at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on March 19–20. Many of my constituents will be exposed to the exciting world of neuroscience, hopefully become inspired to become the next generation of scientists, and learn about the connection between increased support for biomedical research and benefits to public health. Today, in recognition of Brain Awareness Week, I would like to highlight a serious brain condition that affects many of our men and women in uniform returning home from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a former Naval officer, I know firsthand the reality of war and how it affects our soldiers. Many of our brave men and women experience severe trauma from land mines, road side bombs and other powerful explosives, which result in what are now recognized to be the signature wounds of these recent conflicts: TBI, the loss of limbs, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In part, these wounds can be attributed to advanced body armor that shield soldiers' torsos from bullets, shrapnel, and injury and prevents them from being killed in attacks. Yet their bodies remain relatively exposed to the concussive effect of blasts that can raise atmospheric pressure by 1,000 times, rattling the brain against the skull. Neuroscience research has contributed significantly to the current standard of neurological and mental health care in the field and at military health facilities across the country.

The numbers associated with these signature wounds, including TBI, are staggering and illustrate the need for additional research. During a Pentagon news conference on March 5, 2009, Department of Defense doctors reported as many as 360,000 U.S. Service members have experienced brain injuries, mostly concussions, representing about 20 percent of the 1.8 million soldiers who have served in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. The head of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury noted that while the overwhelming majority heal—and heal without treatment—an esti-

mated 45,000 to 90,000 troops have suffered more severe and lasting symptoms, which overall cost the U.S. Army \$242 million last year for staff, facilities and programs to serve troops with brain injuries. Additionally, an unprecedented 36 percent of the veterans treated thus far have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. According to 2003 data analyzed by the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 60 percent of returning U.S. soldiers who had been exposed to blasts showed signs of brain injury, and face a lifetime of disability at an estimated cost of \$60 billion annually.

Madam Speaker, new research is exploring improved methods of treatment of TBI. The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center and Department of Veterans Affairs research facilities across the country are testing the antidepressant sertraline as a treatment for symptoms of TBI, including irritability, depression, frustration, and anxiety. Neuroscientists are trying to understand how these explosives disrupt the function of the nervous system in order to develop specific recovery strategies. Activity-based therapy, which takes advantage of the brain's plasticity or ability to review and recover, is proving to be one of the most effective approaches in treating head injuries. Even when certain functions are lost, repeatedly practicing a movement seems to encourage the brain to reestablish the connections that support that function. Research in laboratory animals suggests that activity itself can increase the secretion of some nerve growth factors known to play an important role in the brain plasticity and learning.

I would like to recognize that the enhancement of research for soldiers and others suffering from TBI continues to be a Congressional priority, as evidenced by the passage of the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act, which I was proud to cosponsor. This legislation reauthorized many essential programs including the Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, which conducts TBI research at laboratories on the NIH campus and also supports it through grants to major medical institutions across the country. The pursuit of cutting-edge brain injury research will remain on the nation's healthcare and neuroscience agendas for decades to come in hopes of developing innovative medical treatments that will enhance the quality of life for our veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week, which exposes our young citizens to the wonders of the brain. I also ask that you join me in continuing to support basic research that provides a foundation for new treatments that have an enormous impact on the lives of our brave men and women returning home from combat with TBI and other brain injuries and disorders.

CELEBRATING MARCH AS RED
CROSS MONTH

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, the American Red Cross has been on the